

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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## How to Join

- \* Come to a club meeting;
- \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))
- \* or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

## From the President

I've been absent for the past two weeks on a vacation up north. Last week I went to a 50-year college reunion. While there I stood in front of the door to the engineering building, and noticed six gargoyles set into the concrete walls. This photo shows one of them, a student clutching an apparatus while tapping on a Morse key and wearing a headphone set. Even though the building was constructed in 1931, I think that gargoyle looks a lot like me, don't you!



I need to stand on my soap box for a couple of ongoing issues where we need members to step up: Presentations and Banquet ticket sales. Tom Duncan did a terrific talk on the history of SSB last month. We should demand great presentations like this every month, but we need members to step up and do it. There is no shortage of subjects in this hobby, and virtually every member among us is capable of doing what Tom did. I wish I had time to talk to each of you individually regarding this subject at the meeting, but I'll try. We keep tapping the same folks over and over, but we shouldn't do that. If anyone is interested, but hesitant, I'll be glad to help you develop your subject. If you are about to be a first-time presenter, let me assure you this will be a memorable event for you, one that you should enjoy.

Our hamfest banquet ticket sales are open, but our time is short now. We'll be spiffing up our

website (and the [hamfest.org](http://hamfest.org) website as well) to show photos, maps, the grand prize, and introduction to our speaker, Joel Harrison, W5ZN. For sure I'll need to deputize a few of you as executive ticket agents. We really do need volunteers: to dig up door prizes, to sign guests in and gather tickets. Most of our tickets are selling via PayPal this time, so we won't be mailing out tickets. If we pass yours out at the door, you won't have to worry about losing it (as I sometimes have).

I had one great time at the Hamvention again! Started a bunch of new projects with parts from Dayton. Bought a Flex Maestro, so I may have a new presentation on remote operation for DX and contests – operating my tower and amp from my hotel room in Chicago, for instance.

73 de Bob, K8KI

## Space Weather for the DXer

June Program by Ghee Fry, W4L7C

Our Sun is the ultimate driver of space weather. This current solar cycle 24 has exhibited some of the lowest levels of solar activity in many decades, as well as producing some surprisingly large solar events and communication outages. We are just now approaching solar minimum and can expect low solar fluxes to

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## May Meeting Minutes

By Chris Reed, AI4U, NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

### Attendance

Members 24 & guests 3

### Meeting minutes

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. He polled those present to see who is headed for Dayton.

The club voted and welcomed new members:

Jim Clifford NKV3

Jon Benignus K4KLB

and “renewed” member Ray Smith AB4JI. Chris told the group about having a pleasant phone conversation with Ray, who along with his wife look forward to attending the DX banquet this year. Chris mentioned that he first met Ray at Field Day in the late 90’s and the Ray gave him his first HF operating opportunity at the 20 meter SSB Field Day Station.

The price for the banquet tickets this year is the same as last year, \$38 each. The banquet will be held Saturday, August 17 at Springhill Suites. Two tickets were sold at the meeting. Two were sold to Ray Smith prior to the meeting. The website would be updated to allow for online purchase.

### Financial Report

Bank balance was \$9842.84 as of April 30.

Bob K8KI announced that former ARRL president and contestor Joel Harrison, W5ZN will be the DX banquet speaker this year.

Tom Duncan commented that the hamfest forums are filling up. Mark Brown reported on the networking between Dayton, Orlando and the Huntsville Hamfests. All three will be in Dayton together. This is a positive for all as

it provides opportunities to learn from each other and improve each Hamfest. Mark and Kelley will staff the booth at Dayton representing Huntsville Hamfest. This years’ Huntsville Hamfest promises to be bigger, better and friendlier.

Stephen Smith, KY4G updated the club on the restructuring of the ARRL bureau fees to lower costs. It now costs a \$1.50 an ounce for the bureau. Stephen will be glad to take any cards and mail them through the club to help keep the costs down.

Stephen also announced that he had updated the DX counts on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m. Tom Duncan, KG4CUY presented the program: Single Sideband, the formative years.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

## NADXC Nostalgia

By Johnny Winter, KR4F

I’ve been straightening the shack a bit. (I do it every three or four decades whether it needs it or not). I came across several old NADXC rosters from the days before the internet when we handed out printed copies.

There were 117 members in December, 1991, not counting honorary members Romeo Stepanenko, UB5JRR, and Ron Wright, Z11AMO.

Of the 117, 27 are known dead and I could find no calls associated with an additional 21.

Although some of the Alabama members were from as far away as Birmingham, it is interesting that four were from KY, seven were from GA, 20 were from TN, and one was from NC.

Of course the sunspots were at a peak for that period. The mean sunspot number hit a little over 200 at the time, whilst we barely broke 100 on this last cycle!

## June Program

Cont’d from p. 1

continue for several years. This talk provides an overview of solar activity, space weather, and effects that adversely and sometimes beneficially impact radio propagation. An understanding of space weather and careful planning can offer exciting opportunities to maximize DX success.

Get to Newk’s at 6:00 pm for dinner, business meeting at 6:30, and

## The LongPath Staff

### Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

### Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Chris Reed, AI4U, Minutes

Bob De Pierre, K8KI, From the President

## NADXC Officers and Directors

President	<b>Bob De Pierre, K8KI</b>
Vice President	<b>Warren Alford, K4MMW</b>
Secretary/	<b>Chris Reed, AI4U</b>
Treasurer	
At-large	<b>Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI</b>
Directors	<b>Tom Duncan, KG4CUY</b>

Ghee’s program beginning no later than 7:00.

## DX Contests for June

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### GACW WWSA CW DX Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

June 8, 1500Z to June 9, 1500Z

Exchange: RST, CQ zone

See page 86, June QST and

[www.wwsatestest.org](http://www.wwsatestest.org)

### Asia-Pacific Sprint, (SSB), 20-15 meters

June 8, 1100Z to June 8, 1300Z

Exchange: RS, Serial #

See page 86, June QST and

[www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt](http://www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt)

### Portugal Day Contest, (SSB/CW), 80-10 meters

June 8, 1200Z to June 8, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) and Serial or district code

See page 86, June QST, and

[http://www.rep.pt/portugal\\_day\\_contest](http://www.rep.pt/portugal_day_contest)

### All Asian DX Contest (CW), 160-10M

June 15, 0000Z to June 16, 2359Z

Exchange: RST & age; YLs send 00

See page 86, June QST and

[www.iar1.org/English](http://www.iar1.org/English)

### Stew Perry Topband Challenge (CW), 160 meters

June 15, 1500Z to June 16, 1500Z

Exchange: 4-character grid square

See page 86, June QST and <http://www.kkn.net/stew/>

### IARU HF World Championships (SSB/CW), 160-10M

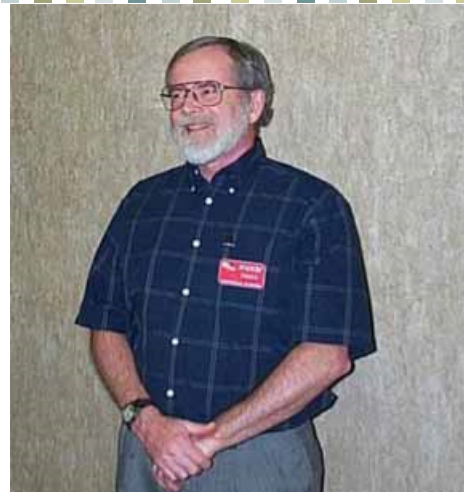
July 13, 1200Z to July 14, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone; IARU HQ stns send HQ abbrev.

See <http://www.ar1.org/iaru-hf-championship>

### OTHERS:

**Ukrainian DX Classic DIGI Contest,**  
1200Z, Jun 22 to 1159Z, Jun 23



**His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB,**

1200Z, Jun 2 to 1200Z, Jun 23

**Marconi Memorial HF Contest (CW),**

1400Z July 6 – 1400Z, July 7

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM

## Russell Cave on the Air? Let's Get There First!

By Johnny Winter, KR4F

So, I think it was about 1961. We had been on vacation visiting Acadia National Park in Maine and MIT as a candidate for my college (I failed to get a scholarship, so that was out). Mom was enamored of the brand new NASA at Huntsville and hoped I might ultimately get a job as a rocket scientist there so we swung through northern Alabama on our way back to Murray, Ky.

As it turned out, I wound up being a rocket scientist with the Army in Huntsville instead of NASA, but that's another story.

Anyway, Mom had seen an article in the National Geographic about the new National Monument (Russell Cave), and we were going to see it on our way to Huntsville.

But, when we got to Bridgeport, we couldn't find any signs directing us to Russell Cave!

We finally saw a guy sitting on his porch and my Dad said "go ask him how to find Russell Cave". So I went up and asked the guy and wonder of wonders he knew what I was asking!

"Go up to (road I don't remember), take a left and go up to (road I don't remember), take another left and go to Oscar Ridley's mail box." "Take another left and follow that road to Russell Cave."

Well, that was not a road after Oscar Ridley's mail box! It was a dirt trail which required fording a creek. Since we were pulling a 15 ft travel trailer, that had me out of the car checking the situation before we proceeded. Any-

way, Daddy persisted and we ultimately came to a rather ramshackle farm house with piles of new lumber stacked around. Oscar was on the roof, putting a new roof on the house.

Still no sign of Russell Cave. When asked Oscar said "Oh yeah, follow that cow path past the barn down into the hollow and you'll see the cave". So, we did, only to find a chain link barricade across the mouth of the cave with warnings to keep out!

So much for my first visit to Russell Cave!

73,

Johnny, KR4F